

Come and See!  
John 1:29-42

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the words of my mouth and the ears of our hearts be open to the Word of God this day. Amen.

Today we hear more from the story of Jesus' baptism. (((interrupting my own thoughts I Point with my finger at the wall)))) My goodness what is that over there? Did you see it! – Now it's over there on that wall. My goodness look, right there on the wall. Do you see it! Do you! Come and See!

Boy that was easy to get you all to look over here at the wall of the church. How come that was so easy to do but to get people to do the same thing about Jesus we get scared? Evangelism is one of the scariest things you can ask a Christian to do. After all, we might not know what to say. They might ask me tough questions that I don't have the answers to. It might be embarrassing. It might be intrusive. It's not my job. Someone else will do it. Or perhaps we are just scared to point others to Christ and say- Come and See!

But Evangelism is really just that simple. It is just pointing and getting someone else to look, to see, to turn their eyes, thoughts and feelings toward seeing God. It really is just that simple – Come and See!

That happens four times in our Gospel reading this morning. It all starts with John the Baptist and a couple of his disciples. These two disciples had been part of the crowd that came out to see what John was all about. They came and saw something that caught their eye and they stayed to watch, to listen, to see. So these two disciples, now students of John were probably there when Jesus came to the river, just like so many others had come. As we heard in our last week's Gospel reading, these disciples most likely heard John try to stop Jesus from coming to him to be baptized. They had seen and witnessed Jesus saying that it should be done for righteousness sake. They were there when the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended on Jesus like a dove and the voice from heaven declares him the Beloved.

And now these same two disciples of John, are there listening and seeing as John points out the approaching Jesus. Look and See, John Says, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the Sin of the world!". John at this point even testifies that he himself has seen and declares that this "Jesus is the Son of God." Plain and simple isn't it, John points so that everyone there can see what he is talking about and he says Here is the Lamb of God, The Son of God.

So this is now the second time they have seen Jesus and John both times has declared that he is the chosen one of God. But sometimes just pointing and saying come and see takes more than once. Just like evangelism, it is difficult to get people to see and understand what your sharing with them. Sometimes it take persistence. John twice (once at Jesus' baptism and now as Jesus comes towards him) declares his glory and points him out and yet they still don't all Look and See.

Finally on the next day, when again Jesus is passing by, John points once again and declares Look, "Here is the Lamb of God." Now finally those two disciples turn their heads and look and see Jesus, following him. Perhaps it took a few times for them to grasp the importance of this person. Perhaps it took them a while to think about what it means that John has said Jesus is the Lamb of God. To most Jews the Lamb of God would instantly conjure up images of the Passover or the lamb of atonement. The lamb that without a blemish is offered up on the High festival days of Passover or Atonement as a sacrifice to God to appease God of their sins and to turn away death. Now John has said a couple of times that Jesus is this Lamb of God, and so after hearing it, thinking about it, and perhaps even discussing it between themselves, these two disciples finally turn and See.

Now these two turn their attentions away from John and instead follow Jesus to see where he is going, what he is about, what it means. They follow to see. And Jesus knowing their intentions, turns and confronts them telling them to Come and See. This is yet a third instance in our Gospel reading of a simple method of evangelism. Come and See. Follow Jesus, see what he does, spend time with him, hear his words, see his miracles. Watch and learn, come and see for yourselves what he is about. And these two disciples in fact do that very thing. They follow, looking and seeing all they can about Jesus.

And finally that brings us to our fourth example of evangelism in this Gospel reading. Andrew, one of those two that had been disciples of John, who had heard him twice say look the Lamb of God, and see the Son of God. Andrew the one who finally turned and followed Jesus to see and experience what he was all about, now goes to find his brother so that he might come and see also. Andrew goes to Simon Peter and tells him that they have found the messiah. And he brings him to show him Jesus.

Now we don't get all the words of this brotherly discussion. But I am sure Peter wanted more details. Peter probably asked some questions. And if your like me You can almost hear Peter's words of doubt or disgust. "Yeah right Andrew, you though John was it before and now you think it is this Jesus. I bet!" And the words of anyone trying to convince

someone of something they haven't seen for themselves comes out of Andrew's mouth. Come and see for yourself. Come and See and you will know. Words of invitation, of a dare, of information, of insistence, of welcome. Come and see and know what I have known. And Peter goes and we know the rest of the story.

This is four examples of simple evangelism. Sometimes it just takes the invite. Sometimes it may take a little persistence. Sometimes it takes just showing the way. Come and See.

Who was it that brought you for the first time to meet Jesus? For some of us it might have been our parents. At a young age our parents brought us into the church and fulfilled the vows made at baptism, bringing us to worship, to teach us about God and to place in our hands the word of God. We grew up in the church and came to know God through the help of Sunday school teachers, Vacation Bible School teachers, Pastors. All people sharing their faith with others so that others may come and see God.

Others of us may have come because a spouse or a child or a friend asked us. We came to worship because we see that it is important to them and meaningful. They show their faith by their insistence that they want to share this experience with you.

While still yet others come because the Spirit of the Lord has called them, invited them to take part in God's house. Perhaps due to a recent accident, sickness, or even a death, a fear, or a hope that they are seeking answers and the truth from the one who is all truth, God almighty. They come looking to see God.

So who first invited you to come and see Jesus, to come and know God? Each of us here were invited, by family, friends, the Spirit of God, in some way we all were called to come and see. And likewise we are all told to go and invite. It is not complicated, you don't need any special training, just look at John, Andrew, Jesus in our Gospel reading. The words were easy – Come and See!

Look, see that cross. Look see that Cup and Wine. See the Lamb on the cross whole lays down his life for you. It is not hard to point someone to see God. To share our faith and what we believe in. It just means inviting, pointing, showing, Look and see this is God's love.

Who is it that God has called you to invite, to share your faith with, to welcome, to tell Come and See for yourself the God that I believe in. There is no trick to evangelism. It is simply pointing people to God and saying Look and See this God. Amen.

MAY THE PEACE AND GRACE OF GOD BE WITH YOU THIS DAY AND THROUGHOUT THE WEEK TO COME.